

REMARKS

5 In the specification, the paragraph [0014] has been amended to correct a minor translation problem.

Claims 8-15 remain in this application. Claims 1-7 are cancelled without prejudice and claims 8-15 are newly added without any new matters added.

10 The Examiner is thanked for the thorough examination of the present application. Applicant has carefully considered the examiner's opinion and made an amendment to the claims. Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the remaining claims for at least the reasons set forth herein.

15 **Newly added claims 8-15 are patentable over the cited references Nonaka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,892,596) and Lupien Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,532,849):**

20 Applicant asserts that the newly added claim 8 is patentable over Nonaka et al. in view of Lupien Jr. et al. because they fail to disclose a combination of the following limitations: “a first buffer unit for storing data of a plurality of pixels; a first processing unit, coupled to the first buffer unit, for processing the data of the plurality of pixels in accordance with a first function and thereby generating first data; a second buffer unit, coupled to the first processing unit, for storing the first data; and a second processing unit, coupled to the second buffer unit, for processing the first data in accordance with a second function and thereby generating second data; wherein the first buffer unit, the first processing unit, the second buffer unit, and the second processing unit are coupled together in series”. Applicant also asserts that the newly added claim 12 is patentable over the two prior arts because they fail to teach or suggest a combination of

the following limitations: “buffering data of a plurality of pixels, the plurality of pixels including one or more pixels of a certain horizontal line; processing the data of the plurality of pixels in accordance with a first function and thereby generating first data; buffering the first data; and processing the first data in accordance with a second function 5 and thereby generating second data; wherein the step of processing the first data in accordance with the second function is initiated before all pixels of the certain horizontal line are processed by the step of processing the data in accordance with the first function”. For at least the above-mentioned reasons, independent claims 8 and 12 are placed in condition of allowance. Since claims 9-11 and 13-15 are respectively 10 dependent upon claims 8 and 12, if claims 8 and 12 are found to be allowable, so to should the dependent claims.

Conclusion:

15 Therefore, all pending claims 8-15 are submitted to be in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned if there are informalities that can be resolved in a phone conversation, or if the Examiner has any ideas or suggestions for further advancing the prosecution of this case.

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Sincerely yours,

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Date: 08.07.2007

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10 Note: Please leave a message in my voice mail if you need to talk to me. (The time in D.C. is 12 hours behind the Taiwan time, i.e. 9 AM in D.C. = 9 PM in Taiwan.)